

K. C. BE, SWANNIO BE, WIE GO BE, WIE HWA BE, WIE  
BHING BE, AND SWIE TIEN BE

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JULY 19, 1951.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

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Mr. WALTER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the  
following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1105]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1105) for the relief of K. C. Be, Swannio Be, Wie Go Be, Wie Hwa Be, Wie Bhing Be, and Swie Tien Be, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to K. C. Be, his wife and four children. The bill provides for appropriate quota deductions and for payment of the required visa fees and head taxes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The beneficiaries of the bill were all born in Java, Indonesia, and are of the Chinese race. The mother, father, and two of the children were last admitted to the United States on June 17, 1947, at which time the father was admitted as an official of a foreign government. The other two boys were admitted to the United States on May 2, 1947, as students.

A letter dated July 11, 1950, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to S. 2711, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same aliens, reads as follows:

JULY 11, 1950.

Hon. PAT McCARRAN,  
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
 United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (S. 2711) for the relief of K. C. Be, Swannio Be, Wie Go Be, Wie Hwa Be, Wie Bhing Be, and Swie Tien Be, all aliens.

The bill would provide that, in the administration of the immigration laws, the aforementioned six individuals, shall be considered to have been lawfully admitted into the United States, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. Further the bill would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the quota for China for each of these six persons.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that all of the aforementioned aliens were born in Java, Indonesia, and excepting Wie Go Be (Stanley Be) all are now in the United States residing in Leonia, N. J. They have been citizens of the Netherlands but whether, in view of the political changes in Java, they retain citizenship in the Netherlands, or whether they have acquired Indonesian citizenship, has not been ascertained. At least some of the male members of the family have been citizens of China.

The full name of the senior Mr. Be is Kian Chong Be and he has stated that he is also known as Kian Chong Ma. He is 51 years of age and was born on January 14, 1899. The date of his entry into the United States, with his wife Swannio Be and their son Wie Bhing Be and daughter Swie Tien Be, is incorrectly stated in the bill as June 17, 1949. These four persons last entered the United States on June 17, 1947, when the senior Mr. Be was admitted as an official of a foreign government under section 3 (1) of the Immigration Act of 1924, for the duration of his status. At that time he presented a Netherlands passport containing a section 3 (1) nonimmigrant visa issued on May 23, 1947, at the American Consulate at Amsterdam, Netherlands. Mr. Be stated that he was sent by the Netherlands Government as an official and on December 20, 1949, asserted that he was still working intermittently in connection with that mission. Subsequently Mr. Be stated that he did not represent the Netherlands Government. In an interview on December 20, 1949, he said that he and his wife had set up a business known as the Java Food Products, Inc., in Jersey City, N. J., in May 1948; that he is the president and production manager of the company and that he and his wife own 50 percent of the corporation's stock, the remaining stock being owned by a Mr. Doerrler and a Mrs. Rudolf.

The record indicates that deportation proceedings were instituted against Mr. Be and his family but that such proceedings were ordered held in abeyance pending consideration of the instant bill. The senior Mr. Be graduated in 1922 from Lehigh University where he majored in engineering. Previous to the invasion of the Japanese in Java he claims to have had a factory there at which he employed some 500 persons. According to Mr. Be his factory was burned and devastated and he became a prisoner of the Japanese but was released after a week. He then began the rehabilitation of his factory and the manufacture of various products on a small scale, including chocolate, tooth paste, and perfume. It is shown in the record that in 1946 Mr. Be and his family moved from Java to Singapore.

The qualifications upon which Mr. Be obtained documentation in the Netherlands, in 1947, as an official of the Netherlands Government, and obtained entry into the United States in such capacity, are not disclosed by the files. He did engage in commercial ventures in the United States for his personal profit and, admittedly, does not now represent the Netherlands Government. He has stated that he owns income-producing property in Java but would prefer to remain in the United States. Whether there is some connection between the fact that Mr. Be was able to do business under the Japanese and refrained from participation in any resistance movement and the fact that he left Java immediately after the Japanese withdrew and is now unwilling to return to Java has not been explained. Mr. Be and his wife receive a monthly salary of \$500 from the Java Food Products, Inc. That corporation has capital of about \$10,000 and its goods are sold principally in the domestic market but some are exported to Curaçao, Netherlands West Indies. Mr. Be estimated that in 1949 the company had done \$40,000 worth of business but anticipated an increased volume for the current year.

Mrs. Be was born on January 17 1903. In 1947 she accompanied Mr. Be to the United States, being admitted as the wife of an official of a foreign government. She is the treasurer and assistant secretary of the Java Food Products, Inc., and

the assistant production manager of the business. She had previously visited the United States in 1938. Wie Bhing Be, also known as Edwin Be, was born in Java on August 21, 1933. He presumably has not been out of the United States since his arrival with his father in 1947. He has been a high-school student in Leonia, N. J. Swie Tien Be, also known as Sally Be, is apparently the youngest of the children but her age and birth date have not been furnished. She attends school and so far as is known has not been out of the United States since entering with her parents in 1947.

Wie Go Be, known also as Stanley Be, was born on November 28, 1926. He last entered the United States on May 2, 1947, in possession of a Chinese passport issued to him in Singapore on March 5, 1947, and a visa issued to him under section 4 (e) of the Immigration Act of 1924, as a student destined to the Hill School, Pottstown, Pa. His visa shows that he lived in Java in 1946 and that he and his parents had been living in Singapore. The senior Mr. Be stated that Stanley received a year's leave of absence from Lehigh University and left the United States in March 1949 for Java, to visit his fiancée and to get married, but he added that he hoped Stanley would return to the United States with his bride.

Wie Hwa Be, also known as Allan Be, was born in Java on February 13, 1931, and apparently has not been out of the United States since his admission with his brother, Stanley, on May 2, 1947. Allan also had a Chinese passport and was admitted as a student destined to the Hill School. According to information supplied by his father, in December 1949 he was then attending Lehigh University.

There is nothing in the record to indicate that the six beneficiaries of the bill are not persons of good moral character and interviews had with persons living in the same vicinity with the Be family revealed that they were well thought of in the community.

The quota for Chinese persons, to which the aliens are chargeable, is over-subscribed, and immigration visas are not readily obtainable. Those of the aliens who are still in the United States should depart to some country of their choice that will accept them, and there in due course apply for immigration visas, if they desire to obtain admission to the United States for permanent residence. The record, however, fails to present considerations to warrant enactment of special legislation granting them preference over other persons chargeable to the same quota.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the bill.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,  
Deputy Attorney General.

The files of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary contain the following information in connection with the bill:

65 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, *January 11, 1950.*

Re bill S. 2711.

UNITED STATES SENATE,

*Committee on the Judiciary,*

*Room 424-A, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.*

SIRS: Reference is made to the letter of November 15, 1949, addressed to the Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey seeking additional information concerning the subject of the above-mentioned bill.

The writer does not know if anyone has officially sponsored Mr. K. C. Be and his family, except that it may have been the late W. D. Jamieson, of Washington, who died a short time ago. Under the circumstances, the writer is delighted to act and to furnish the information desired:

1. Mr. K. C. Be and his wife came into the United States on or about June 17, 1947, on a mission for the Dutch Government, with a visa issued to him under section 3 (1) of the law.

2. Mr. K. C. Be and his wife, Swannio, devote all of their time to the activities of Java Food Products, Inc., of 188 Railroad Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., in which corporation they control 50 percent of the outstanding capital stock. The family reside in their own home at Leonia, N. J.

3. Mr. Be regularly receives a salary of \$300 per month from Java Food Products, Inc., while Mrs. Be receives a monthly salary of \$200 from the same source. They are not dependent upon any person for support.

4. To the best of the writer's knowledge, the Be family is not engaged in any activities, political or otherwise, injurious to the American public interest.

5. No member of the Be family has been convicted of an offense under any Federal or State law and there is attached hereto a certificate of the police department of Leonia, N. J., to this effect.

The undersigned is a part owner of Java Food Products, Inc., and it was through this association that he became acquainted with the Be family.

As a native-born American, the writer has no hesitancy in recommending the Be family.

Sincerely submitted.

CHARLES J. DOERRLER.

BOROUGH OF LEONIA, N. J.,  
January 11, 1950.

*To Whom It May Concern:*

This is to certify that Kian Chong Be, age 51 years, resided at 110 Romaine Place, Leonia, N. J., since September 1948 and is known to be of good character.

There is no record of any kind against the afore-mentioned person on the police-department books.

Very truly yours,

PATRICK J. CLARKIN, *Chief of Police.*

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY,  
DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,  
Bethlehem, Pa., August 31, 1949

*To Whom It May Concern:*

This letter is written to support the application of Mr. Kian Chong Be for extension of stay in this country while his sons are being educated.

I knew Mr. Be as a student in 1922. Ten years later I visited him and his charming wife and babies in Java. There he apparently was a prosperous businessman—two houses, factory, Packard car, etc.

Just prior to the outbreak of the war, he spent a year in Holland and America, with the children in school. He and his family have been entertained in our home. After the war I helped him in placing his boys in the Hill School, preparatory to entering Lehigh where two of them are now studying. They have a considerable time before graduation.

I consider Mr. Be an upstanding, able, trustworthy gentleman. I recommend that his application for extension of stay be given careful consideration and that it be granted him if at all possible.

Very cordially yours,

F. LARKIN, *Director Emeritus.*

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY,  
Bethlehem, Pa., September 8, 1949.

Mr. W. D. JAMIESON,  
Care of Mr. Kian Chong Be,  
188 Railroad Avenue, Jersey City, N. J.

DEAR MR. JAMIESON: I am writing you at the request of an old friend, Mr. Kian Chong Be, relative to his obtaining special immigration privileges to remain in the United States.

Mr. Be and I were together nearly 30 years ago in our undergraduate days at college. I have since kept in touch with him and occasionally seen him. Since his last return to this country I have seen more of him and of his family, and particularly his sons who have been studying here at Lehigh University.

I have the highest regard for Mr. Be and greatly value his friendship. From what I understand of conditions in Indonesia, I am certain it would be disastrous for him to be forced to return there. Furthermore, he has done so well in this country, that I feel his presence among us is valuable. If anything can be done whereby his stay may be prolonged indefinitely, I believe that both Mr. Be and we shall benefit thereby.

Very truly yours,

BRADFORD WILLARD,  
Head Department of Geology.



Committee files also contain the following letter dated October 4, 1949, from Mr. K. C. Be, addressed to the late Senator Jamieson, formerly a member of the New Jersey State Senate, which letter reads as follows:

JAVA FOOD PRODUCTS, INC.,  
Jersey City, N. J., October 4, 1949.

MY DEAR SENATOR JAMIESON: Mr. Charles Doerrler has been very kind to ask me to write you in regards what hardships we would have if we were to be sent back to Java. As you probably know, my chocolate and candy factory, employing about 500 people was burnt and destroyed when the Japanese invaded Java. Besides we lost eight houses, being totally burnt and demolished.

When the Japanese capitulated, the Indonesians revolted against the Dutch, and demanded their independence. During the battle the Dutch bombarded our out-of-town house, and the house was totally demolished and burnt to ashes. This is due to the fact that our out-of-town house was then occupied by force by the Indonesians.

Due to the above said reminiscences, we would not like to return again to Java. The situation in Java is at present still chaotic and warlike, and if we are to return to Java again, we are sure we shall encounter great difficulties. As you probably have read in the papers that thousands and thousands of Chinese have been murdered by the Indonesians, when a city or town is being evacuated by the Dutch.

It has been the wish and ideal of both my wife and myself since 20 years ago, that our boys be educated in the United States, as I myself was educated here.

During the war I served in the Dutch Army for the Allied cause. Because of my great admiration for American democracy and freedom, the Japanese (during their occupation of Java) imprisoned me, suspecting me of transmitting wireless news to America, and accused me of being an American spy, of which I was totally innocent.

Mr. Doerrler has probably explained that I was sent to America by the Netherlands Government for the studies of the plastic industries, visiting the following companies, the Union Carbon & Carbide Co., the Hercules Powder Co., the Prentice Machinery Co., and the Bakelite Co., and to report the progress and development of the new processes of the American plastic industries.

As I have worked 2 years (1922-24) in the Pennsylvania Rubber Co., of Jeannette, Pa., and in the Miller Rubber Co., of Akron, Ohio, I was then considered an authority in the manufacture of various rubber articles, and I am only too willing to be of any assistance to the United States, in the event my services is needed.

Mrs. Be and our children wish to join me in conveying to you our heartiest thanks and appreciation for your kindness in helping us in every way.

Cordially yours,

KIAN CHONG BE.

Senator H. Alexander Smith, the author of the bill, has also submitted the following information in connection with the case:

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN LEONIA, N. J.,  
October 3, 1949.

Hon. H. ALEXANDER SMITH,  
Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR SMITH: It is my privilege to write you concerning Mr. and Mrs. Kian Chong Be, their three sons and little daughter—a Chinese family from Java, resident in our community somewhat more than a year.

They are a charming, cultured, well-educated family who have made a fine adjustment to our community life. Mr. Be is a highly trained chemical engineer, graduate from Lehigh University, 1922. Mrs. Be is a cousin of the wife of Wellington Koo, Chinese Ambassador. Two sons at present are students at Lehigh University, a third is a senior in our local high school. The little girl is 4 years old.

Mr. Be returned to Java in 1924, was in this country for 6 months in 1938, and then brought his family to this country in 1947. He was sent by the Government of Java to make a study of the plastic industry here. He also made a survey of plastic manufacturing in Holland. He is thus in this country on a Government mission.

Since the Government in Java permitted him to take only a limited amount of funds out of the country, he established a food-products business in Jersey

City, with the help of interested friends, to maintain himself and family and the education of his boys. He bought a modest home for his family here in Leonia.

His report to the Government in Java is nearly completed. He tells me that this report can be made in writing and does not require his presence.

He is most eager to remain in this country with his family. This is understandable for a great many reasons. But this would involve a change of his status here and an extension of his permit to remain in this country. Here is the heart of the problem at this point. Beyond that I am sure that he would rejoice greatly if the way could be cleared for him to become a citizen of the United States.

Should he be forced to return to Java now it would disrupt the education of his boys in this country, since he could not send funds from Java to maintain them here. It would mean closing his business in Jersey City with attendant financial loss to himself and friends who invested to help him. The business requires his expert knowledge of far-eastern food recipes and procedures. It would further be unfortunate for I am told that the Javanese are not favorable to Chinese people in their midst.

His boys represent the highest type of young students. I have met them all. His youngest son is a member of my Sunday school class, and only last Sunday made in class as fine a prayer as I have heard from any of our own young people.

On their own initiative Mr. and Mrs. Be came into the life and activities of our church. In a quiet and humble way they made a very real place for themselves among our people. Last spring Mr. and Mrs. Be united with our church. They are sincere, hard-working, capable, Christian people.

Most earnestly I should urge that if it is humanly possible the way be cleared for them to remain in this country. They deeply desire for themselves and their family the privileges of this country. The members of this family are capable of becoming high-type, constructive citizens. The return to Java would mean bitter disappointment to them, closing doors of large opportunity open to them here, the loss of that fuller life which they could live within our borders.

I bespeak your sincere interest and your whole-hearted cooperation.

Sincerely yours.

JOHN W. VOORHIS, *Minister.*

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (S. 1105) should be enacted.

